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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

FLD
377 117
Date: May 15, 1974
Item No: WH #1

CIA/OCT

/WHIZWH 746515

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

State Department review completed

SUBJECT: UK Proposes New Draft Atlantic Declaration

UK Foreign Minister Callaghan has circulated among the other eight EC foreign ministers a new draft Atlantic declaration to be issued at the Ottawa NATO ministerial meeting in June. The UK plans to introduce the text at the NATO permanent representatives' tomorrow.

The text is not yet available but it reportedly stresses the importance of maintaining cooperation and mutual trust and also stresses the need to strengthen allied consultations.

Although London prefers that the text bear the title of Atlantic Declaration, it would reluctantly agree to call it an enhanced NATO ministerial communique.

Callaghan should have little trouble selling his proposal to the other EC foreign ministers, with the possible exception of the

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French. From Paris' point of view, everything will likely depend on how binding a form of consultation the British envisage and whether or not it would seem to commit the EC Nine to a more formal mechanism than the EC foreign ministers already agreed on last month during a get together in Germany..